

I am here on behalf of my colleagues who are unable to attend today due to either fear of retaliation and/ or lack of notice. This public meeting is a façade. The notice for this meeting was posted on a weekend, Saturday, April 27, 2019, a mere three days ago. The notice is buried on a link on the court's website and is simply labeled, "Notice of Public Meeting" so as not to attract attention. The notice required any submissions for speaking to be submitted by 1pm on Monday, April 29, 2019, giving the public a mere 4 business hours to become aware of the meeting and submit comment. Furthermore, the notice merely states to provide comment to Michelle McDonald. The notice does not provide an address, email, phone number, or fax for a member of the public to know how to reach Michelle McDonald to express their concerns. Today's meeting was set for one of the busiest court days, during jury trial call, so as to prevent employees from attending.

During retired CEO Linda Romero-Soles tenure at Merced Superior Court she has repeatedly harassed and retaliated against employees. With the assistance and participation of Human Resources, Linda Romero-Soles has reduced employee morale and created a less than desirable working environment. Unfortunately, Merced Superior Court employees have no avenue to address their concerns; however, feel it is necessary to bring to light there are many concerns with hiring Linda Romero-Soles as an Executive Advisor. One of these concerns is the fact that Linda Romero Soles is currently being investigated in two separate matters for misconduct.

Linda Romero-Soles recommended Amanda Toste for the Interim CEO position in a effort to create a "critical need" Executive Advisor position that would secure her return to Merced Superior Court. Amanda Toste is the least experienced of the four Merced Superior Court managers and has no experience in finance, operations or management of multiple divisions and large amounts of employees. In fact, Amanda Toste was not classified as the HR Manager until approximately August 2018. It is unknown as to why or how that reclassification occurred. Amanda Toste is not aware of current or future initiatives with our Tyler case management team and has no relationships with our justice partners.

Merced Superior Court created a Deputy Court Executive Officer position we can only assume for succession planning purposes. Jane Van Vloten assumed that position on January 22, 2018. Deputy CEO Jane Van Vloten has been groomed and trained for over one year to assume the role as Court Executive Officer. Her appointment as Interim CEO would alleviate the need for an Executive Advisor position as she is qualified to assume the role in an interim capacity. Jane Van Vloten is a member of the Tyler case management team and is aware of all Merced Superior Court projects and future initiatives. Jane has established relationships with Merced Superior Court justice partners which would allow for a smooth transition into the CEO role. If Linda Romero Soles is not brought back as an the Executive Advisor and Amanda Toste remains as the interim CEO Jane is perfectly capable of advising her and getting her up to speed. Therefore, it is unnecessary to spend money on hiring Linda Romero Soles.

I'm not here to question or pass judgment on decisions that have been made up to this point. It

is my belief these decisions have been made based on specific, not complete information. I simply want to make sure to provide the necessary information so that a fully informed decision can be made. Thank you for your time.